

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0589

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, SY, JO, EG, US, IS
SUBJECT: KHADDAM RULES OUT RECONCILIATION WITH SADAT; CAUTIONS
HUSSEIN

1. SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE PUBLICATION
AL-HAWADESS WHICH CARRIED IN ALL DAMASCUS NEWSPAPERS OF
JAN 27, FONMIN KHADDAM GAVE FIRST PUBLIC AIRING OF GROWING
SYRIAN CONCERN WITH KING HUSSEIN'S POSITION ON SADAT'S PEACE
MOVES AND REAFFIRMED HIS ABSOLUTE REJECTION OF AN EVENTUAL
RECONCILIATION WITH SADAT EVEN IF HE "REPENTS". KHADDAM
AGAIN SCORED US SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND CHARGED THAT "THE
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AMERICAN AIM IS FULL CONTROL OVER THE ARAB REGION IN
PREPARATION FOR CONTROL OVER AFRICA, AND THE TIGHTENING
OF ITS GRIP ON WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN." HE ASSERTED,
AS HE DID IN SPEECH EARLIER THIS WEEK, THAT SYRIA COULD
RESTORE A MILITARY BALANCE WITH ISRAEL WITHOUT EGYPT
AND INDICATED THAT SYRIAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES WOULD REMAIN
IN LEBANON AT THE BEHEST OF PRES SARKIS WHETHER OR NOT

THIS HAD THE FULL BACKING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING ARE KEY EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW:

Q. AFTER ALL PRESIDENT SADAT'S TALK ABOUT ISRAEL'S HARD-LINE ATTITUDE, DID YOU EXPECT HIM TO ANNOUNCE THE CONTINUATION OF HIS PEACEFUL INITIATIVE?

A. CALLING SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AN INITIATIVE IS ONE OF THE DECEPTIVE ATTEMPTS AT COVERING THE TRUTH THAT IS NO LONGER SECRET -- NAMELY THAT SADAT'S VISIT COMES WITHIN A TRIPARTITE SCHEME: AMERICAN, ISRAELI, AND EGYPTIAN...

Q. WHAT IS THE AIM OF THIS TRIPARTITE SCHEME?

A. THE AMERICAN AIM IS FULL CONTROL OVER THE ARAB AREA IN PREPARATION FOR CONTROL OVER AFRICA, AND TIGHTENING OF ITS GRIP ON WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN. THE ISRAELI AIM IS TO TAKE EGYPT OUT OF THE ARAB ARENA, TOPPLE ITS ROLE IN THE CONFRONTATION, AND CREATE RIFTS IN THE ARAB WORLD IN PREPARATION FOR THE COMPLETE LIQUIDATION OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. ALSO BY USING EGYPT THROUGH THE MEANS OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS IT WILL ESTABLISH IT AS AN ARTERY FOR ISRAELI INTERESTS THAT WOULD SPREAD INTO THE ARAB WORLD... SADAT BELIEVES THAT WITH THIS ALLIANCE, HE CAN USE THE U.S.A. TO BLACKMAIL WEALTHY ARAB STATES INTO GIVING HIM THE BIGGEST SHARE OF OIL REVENUES...
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Q. ... IN THE END, THE ARABS CANNOT BREAK WITH EGYPT, BECAUSE THEY NEED IT IN WAR AS WELL AS IN PEACE.

A. SADAT IS TRYING TO MAKE ARABS AND NON-ARABS BELIEVE THAT THE RULER OF EGYPT IS THE BE-ALL AND END-ALL IN THE ARAB WORLD... THIS PROPOSITION IS NOT TRUE... THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE EGYPTIAN FRONT IN NO WAY MEANS THE DOWNFALL OF

THE ARAB NATION. OUR CAPACITIES IN SYRIA, TOGETHER WITH SOME ARAB CAPABILITIES, ARE SUFFICIENT BY THEMSELVES TO BRING ABOUT A STRATEGIC EQUILIBRIUM IN THE AREA.

Q. IF YOUR SPECULATIONS TURN OUT TO BE RIGHT AND SADAT'S INITIATIVE FAILS, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIM?

A. SADAT MUST PAY FOR HIS GAMBLE AND RELINQUISH RESPONSIBILITY TO SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN PUT EGYPT BACK ON THE ARAB TRACK...

Q. SO IF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND THE REST OF THE ARAB STATES, WHO CONSIDER THAT THE ARAB SPLIT IS NO LESS DANGEROUS AND PERILOUS THAN SADAT'S TAKING AN INDIVIDUAL

DECISION TO VISIT ISRAEL, IF THESE STATES CALL FOR A SUMMIT CONFERENCE, WILL HUNYRIA REFUSE TO ATTEND IT?

A. OF COURSE IT WILL, BECAUSE ANY TALK ABOUT A SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN WHICH SADAT WOULD PARTICIPATE IS NOT SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION...

Q. SO YOU WILL REJECT ANY SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN WHICH SADAT WOULD BE PRESENT?

A. YES.

Q. AND IF SADAT MANAGES TO GET A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT?

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A. WHAT IS NOW GOING ON BETWEEN SADAT AND BEGIN IS NOT A SETTLEMENT BUT A PLOT. SADAT HAS AGREED NOT TO RENOUNCE ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, AND HE HAS ALSO CONSENTED TO CALLING IT 'JUDEA AND SAMARIA'. IN HIS LATEST STATEMENT TO OCTOBER MAGAZINE, HE SAID HE ACCEPTS AUTONOMY FOR THE PALESTINIANS, AND THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED OVER A PERIOD (OF TIME). APPROVAL OF THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY MEANS APPROVAL OF CONTINUED ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY... ALL THE WRANGLING IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI-AMERICAN AGREEMENT UNDER THE PRINCE OF HARDLINE AND UNYIELDING POSITIONS, WHICH HELP SOME ARAB VOICES IN ASKING SUPPORT FOR THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AND IN STANDING BY HIM IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST ISRAEL.

Q. IT'S KING HUSSEIN WHO IS CALLING FOR BACKING PRESIDENT SADAT.

A. THE JORDANIAN POSITION IS NOT UNDERSTOOD AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED. AND WE DON'T BELIEVE IT SERVES THE ARAB INTEREST OR JORDAN'S INTEREST.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE DIFFERENCE IN POSITIONS BETWEEN YOURSELVES AND JORDAN COULD LEAD TO THE CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN YOU?

A. WE HAVEN'T REACHED THIS POINT, AND WE HOPE THE DISAGREEMENT WOULD BE CHECKED.

Q. IN THREE MONTHS, THE PERIOD FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE SYRIAN DETERRENT FORCES IN LEBANON WILL EXPIRE, AND IT IS DIFFICULT IN THE CURRENT ARAB ATMOSPHERE TO OBTAIN A DECISION FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE PRESENCE OF
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SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON FROM THE LEAGUE OF ARASASTATES.
WHAT WILL THE SITUATION BE?

A. THE MATTER OF RENEWAL OR EXTENSION REGARDING THE
FORCES IS LIKED WITH THE DECISION OF LEBANESE PRESIDENT
ELIAS SARKIS. END OF INTERVIEW. PELLETREAU

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